



News Release

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

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North Of Superior Gears Up For International Investment

McGuinty Government On The Side Of Northerners

THUNDER BAY – Five Thunder Bay-Superior North communities and one area First Nation are pursuing international investment prospects with the help of the Ontario government's GO North Investor Program, Northern Development and Mines Minister Rick Bartolucci announced today.

"The McGuinty government is providing the wherewithal for northern communities to reach out to the world," said Bartolucci. "Marketing the North as a superior investment destination is key to our plan to grow jobs and foster new opportunities for creating wealth in our region."

The communities of Marathon, Nipigon, Terrace Bay, Schreiber and Red Rock will receive \$18,938 in funding through GO North's Northern Communities Investment Readiness initiative for training workshops and other activities that will better prepare them to attract future investment. Last week, similar funding of \$15,000 was announced for training activities in Thunder Bay, Oliver Paipoonge, Marathon and Kenora.

"Our vision for the future is of a strong and prosperous North with healthy communities and a thriving, diversified economy," said Thunder Bay-Superior North MPP Michael Gravelle. "Northern Ontario is an excellent place in which to invest and establish new businesses and we will continue to support our municipal and First Nation partners as they take the steps to promote this message to worldwide investment markets."

Other McGuinty government initiatives that are supporting northern communities include:

- Improving northern highways by investing more than \$1.8 billion over five years in highway expansions and improvements through the Northern Ontario Highways Strategy
- Contributing \$60 million annually to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund to support community and economic development.

To date, more than \$328,000 in NCIR funding has been provided to 27 initiatives helping to enhance the investment readiness of communities across the North. GO North and the Northern Communities Investment Readiness initiatives are part of the Northern Prosperity Plan. The plan is founded on four key pillars including: Strengthening the North and its Communities; Listening to and Serving Northerners Better; Competing Globally; and Providing Opportunities for All.

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Backgrounder

Northern Communities Investment Readiness Initiatives

The Northern Communities Investment Readiness Program gives eligible communities, economic development corporations, and First Nations up to \$5,000 per application for the development of essential and strategic community tools to help increase investment readiness and attract investors. Communities can also partner together on projects and subsequently receive up to \$5,000 for each eligible applicant. A key component of the GO North Investor Program, this initiative promotes a strong investment attraction climate in Northern Ontario. The program is administered by the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines with assistance from the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

Funding announced today includes:

Township of Nipigon

\$3,693 to provide advanced economic development training to participants from Nipigon, Dorion, and Red Rock First Nation.

Town of Marathon

\$3,525 for a two-day workshop on community economic development training for recently elected municipal officials, economic development staff and community volunteers.

Township of Terrace Bay and the Township of Schreiber

\$6,720 for a three-day workshop on community economic development and investment opportunity identification for regional municipal leaders, economic development officers and other stakeholders.

Township of Red Rock

\$5,000 to conduct a community asset inventory and an analysis to determine the community's investment attraction strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. The results will be used in the development of a plan of action for the sustainability of the community and an investment readiness strategy.

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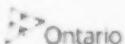
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